

Council Highlights

June 7, 1996

Roger Kimura MD, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Carl Lehman, President at 5:30 pm.

Those present were J. Spangler, President-elect, R. Kimura, Secretary; L. Howard, Treasurer; F. Holschuh, Immediate Past-President; AMA Delegates: C. Kam, R. Stodd; Alternate AMA Delegate: A. Kunimoto; Speaker: H.K.W. Chinn; Component Society Presidents: L. Sonoda-Fogel for Dr. Bade, Hawaii; T. Crane, Kauai; T. Smith, West Hawaii; Councilors: P. Chinn, W. Dang, P. DeMare, M. Shirasu, J. Betwee, C. Kadooka, A. Bairos; Past Presidents: W. Dang, G. Goto, J. McDonnell, S. Wallach, N. Winn; Young Physician Delegate: C. Goto; HMA Alliance: C. Gutteling.

HMA Staff: J. Won, N. Jones, B. Kendro, L. Tong, P. Kawamoto, J. Asato, J. Estioko, A. Rogness-recording secretary.

Minutes: The minutes of the April 12, 1996 meeting were approved as circulated.

Hawaii Health Information Corp.(HHIC): Dr. Sharon Vitousek, HMA's representative, gave an update on what HHIC is doing and where it is going. The goal is to give patients better care and to cut the cost of health care delivery.

- Dr. Lehman reported: 1) he appeared on "Dialog" in a discussion of health care issues in Hawaii; 2) the Distinguished Medical Reporting Awards Banquet and talent show was outstanding; 3) he appeared on KGMB news to discuss the Hawaii State Employees' Retirement Fund including investments in tobacco industries; 4) as a member of the Hawaii Health Council he met with the President of the Hawaii State Bar Association to discuss decreasing the cost of medicine by utilizing alternative dispute resolution methods to circumvent expensive court proceedings; 5) the HMA held two evening seminars on "Coding Reimbursements." There is also a waiting list for another seminar; 6) the contract for Central Verification Services has been signed and marketing will begin within two months; 7) the Membership Task Force has met and is working on recruiting and retaining members. Dr. Spangler, Chair of the Task Force is considering three subcommittees to carry out appropriate membership functions; 8) that the request to Chairs and Commissioners for their annual reports will be going out early July. The annual reports should state the goals of the committee, accomplishments and suggested goals for next year. The deadline for budget requests is August 16, Annual Reports August 26 and Resolutions September 17; 9) HMA acted on behalf of physicians regarding Medicaid delinquent payments; 10) Contact was made regarding the addendum to insurance contracts where physicians would assume liability. After HMA's immediate action, the clause was rescinded; 11) a No-Fault meeting will be held in preparation for a special session of the legislature.

- Dr. Spangler, President-elect reported that on July 22 at 5:30 p.m. there will be a meeting to go over the HMA Committee/Commission Structure with the Chairs and Commissioners.

- The HMA Alliance gave an extensive report from October 1995 - July 1996 on all the functions and fundraisers they have participated in.

For Action

The HMA Council approved the following—

- The Tobacco Task Force's recommendation that HMA urge Governor Cayetano to have Hawaii join a class action suit against tobacco companies.
- The Tobacco Task Force's recommendation that the committee write a letter to Aloha Medical Mission, bringing to their attention that one of their sponsors, a tobacco company, contributes to public health problems.
- The Executive Committee's recommendation that Drs. Ed Montell, Frederick C. Holschuh, Deen Wong, Donna McCleary, Ron Kwon and Steven Moser will be nominated for the Board of Directors, Hawaii Health Systems Corp.
- The Executive Committee's recommendation that Drs. Cynthia Goto and Elizabeth Adams be HMA representatives to help develop standards and procedures for sterilization of incapacitated minors.
- The Legislative Committee's recommendation to honor Senator Rosalyn Baker and Representative Suzanne Chun-Oakland as HMA Legislators of the year 1996.
- To send a certified letter to delinquent dues members, emphasizing why they should belong to the HMA.

Component Society Reports

Honolulu.—Dr. P. Chinn reported that the HCMS Finance Committee will be meeting soon to look at a mid-year budget revision. The HCMS is also planning a retreat at Kualoa Ranch which will be in August. Dr. McDonnell reported that last month's Mini-Internship program was a success.

Kauai.—Dr. F. Holschuh reported for Dr. T. Crane that the physician/patient complaints Dr. Crane discussed at the last Council meeting regarding various physicians were successfully resolved on the County level on an informal basis.

West Hawaii.—Dr. T. Smith reported that North Hawaii Community Hospital is open and already at full capacity. The West Hawaii County Membership meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

Hawaii.—Dr. L. Sonoda-Fogel reported for Dr. E. Bade. Their county will be having a picnic and will invite new physicians. The Family Practice Program residents and students will also be invited.

Maui.—Dr. Betwee reported on recent experiences with the DEA and Medicaid. Problems need to be reported to the HMA as other physicians may have similar experiences.

For Information

Colorado AMA Resolution.—HMA is in support of this resolution that the AMA prepare a model state legislative resolution concerning the equitable tax treatment of expenditures made for health care purposes and provide it to all members of the Federation for consideration to be introduced into their next state legislative sessions.

HMA Resident Physician Section.—A group of residents are interested in forming a resident section of HMA. HMA is hosting a party for them on July 11 at Pizza Bob's. Clinical Laboratories made a generous contribution towards the establishment of the resident's section.

Long Range Planning Committee.—Dr. Cynthia Goto will chair a focus group inviting young member and nonmember physicians. The purpose of the group is to get feedback from them on how HMA is relevant to them and how the organization can best serve them. This will be reported back to the Long Range Planning Committee.

Staff was excused and Council proceeded into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m.

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